IN THE CLAIMS

Amendments to the Claims:

1. [Previously presented] A somatic cell gene targeting vector comprising:

a gene targeting construct comprising a first cloning site operably linked to a DNA encoding a positive selection marker, a second cloning site and a first polyadenylation sequence, wherein the construct is promoterless, wherein the first cloning site comprises a first DNA segment that is homologous to a first genomic target sequence and the second cloning site comprises a second DNA segment that is homologous to a second genomic target sequence; and

an expression cassette comprising a promoter operably linked to DNA encoding a negative selection marker and a second polyadenylation sequence.

2. [Original] The vector of claim 1, wherein the gene targeting construct further comprises a first site-specific recombination sequence for a recombinase and a second site-specific recombination sequence for the recombinase, wherein the first and second site-specific recombination sequences flank the DNA encoding the positive selection marker.

3. [Original] The vector of claim 2, wherein the recombinase is Cre recombinase.

4. [Original] The vector of claim 2, wherein the first and second site-specific recombination sequences are loxP sequences.

5. [Cancelled]

6. [Original] The vector of claim 1, wherein the positive selection marker is neomycin phosphotransferase.

7. [Original] The vector of claim 1, wherein the first polyadenylation sequence comprises a SV40 polyadenylation sequence.

8-9. [Canceled]

10. [Currently Amended] The vector of claim 32 [[9]], wherein the promoter is a modified RSV promoter.

11. [Original] The vector of claim 1, wherein the expression cassette comprises a BGH polyadenylation sequence.

12. [Original] The vector of claim 1, wherein the negative selection marker is HSV thymidine kinase or diphtheria toxin (DT-A).

13. [Previously presented] A method for disrupting a gene of interest in a somatic cell *in vitro*, which method comprises introducing a targeting vector comprising a gene targeting construct comprising a first cloning site operably linked to a DNA encoding a positive selection marker, a second cloning site and a first polyadenylation sequence, wherein the construct is promoterless; and an expression cassette comprising a promoter operably linked to DNA encoding a negative selection marker and a second polyadenylation sequence, wherein the first cloning site comprises a first DNA segment that is homologous to a first genomic target sequence and the second cloning site comprises a second DNA segment that is homologous to a second genomic target sequence, into a somatic cell such that the first genomic target sequence and the second genomic target sequence recombine with the gene to yield a genetically altered cell.

14. [Previously presented] The method of claim 13, wherein the vector recombines with the gene *via* homologous recombination.

15. [Original] The method of claim 13, further comprising identifying the genetically altered cell, wherein the cell's genome comprises the construct and the positive selection marker is expressed.

16. [Original] The method of claim 13, wherein the somatic cell is a mammalian cell.

17. [Original] The method of claim 16, wherein the mammalian cell is a human cell.

18. [Original] The method of claim 13, further comprising introducing a double-stranded oligonucleotide into the somatic cell.

19. [Original] The method of claim 18, wherein the double-stranded oligonucleotide is 62 bp.

20. [Previously presented] A method for disrupting a gene of interest in a somatic cell *in vitro*, which method comprises:

introducing a targeting vector comprising a gene targeting construct comprising a first cloning site operably linked to a DNA encoding a positive selection marker, a second cloning site and a first polyadenylation sequence, wherein the construct is promoterless; and an expression cassette comprising a promoter operably linked to DNA encoding a negative selection marker and a second polyadenylation sequence, wherein the first cloning site comprises a first DNA segment that is homologous to a first genomic target sequence and the second cloning site comprises a second DNA segment that is homologous to a second genomic target sequence, into the somatic cell such that the first genomic target sequence and the second genomic target sequence recombine with the gene to yield a first genetically altered cell; and

introducing a recombinase to the first genetically altered cell, such that the positive selection marker is removed from the construct to yield a second genetically altered cell.

21. [Original] The method of claim 20, wherein the vector recombines with the gene *via* homologous recombination.

22. [Original] The method of claim 20, further comprising identifying the first genetically altered cell, wherein the cell's genome comprises the construct and the positive selection marker is expressed.

23. [Original] The method of claim 22, further comprising identifying the second genetically altered cell.

24. [Original] The method of claim 20, wherein the somatic cell is a mammalian cell.

25. [Original] The method of claim 24, wherein the mammalian cell is a human cell.

26. [Original] The method of claim 20, further comprising introducing a double-stranded oligonucleotide into the somatic cell.

27. [Original] The method of claim 26, wherein the double-stranded oligonucleotide is 62 bp.

28. [Original] An isolated cell prepared by the method of claim 13.

29. [Original] An isolated cell prepared by the method of claim 20.

30. [Previously presented] An isolated somatic cell comprising the vector of claim 1.

31. [Previously presented] The isolated somatic cell of claim 30, wherein the cell is a B cell or a fibroblast cell.

32. [New] A somatic cell gene targeting vector comprising:

a gene targeting construct comprising a first cloning site operably linked to a DNA encoding a positive selection marker, a second cloning site and a first polyadenylation sequence, wherein the construct is promoterless, wherein the first

cloning site comprises a first DNA segment that is homologous to a first genomic target sequence and the second cloning site comprises a second DNA segment that is homologous to a second genomic target sequence; and

an expression cassette comprising a promoter operably linked to DNA encoding a negative selection marker and a second polyadenylation sequence, wherein the promoter is a weak promoter, a phosphoglycerate kinase (PGK) promoter or a modified Rous sarcoma virus (RSV) promoter.